

BASS COAST HEALTH – MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT

2024/2025

This Modern Slavery Statement is made pursuant to the Commonwealth Modern Slavery Act 2018 (the Act) by Bass Coast Health and relates to the financial year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

<p>Reporting Criterion 1: identify the reporting entity</p>
<p>Bass Coast Health is a sub-regional public health service established under section 181 of the Health Services Act 1988 (Vic) located in the Bass Coast Shire in Gippsland, Victoria.</p>
<p>Reporting Criterion 2: describe the reporting entity’s structure, operations, and supply chains</p>
<p>Structure</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bass Coast Health (BCH) is registered as a State Government statutory authority. • Located in Australia • Address: 235 Graham St. Wonthaggi, Vic. 3995 • ABN: 86 627 309 026 • Number of employees: Approximately 1000 and 140 volunteers • BCH consists of four major sites: Wonthaggi Hospital (including Kirrak House a Residential Aged Care Facility), San Remo District Nursing and community health, Griffith Point Lodge (a Residential Aged Care Facility located at San Remo) and Phillip Island Community Hospital located at Cowes.
<p>Operations</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services provided by BCH for the community include care across the life continuum for obstetrics, emergency medicine, intensive care, critical care, surgical and general medicine, rehabilitation, and oncology, through to residential aged care, home care and palliative care. • BCH is located in South Gippsland covering the local government area of the Bass Coast Shire. The catchment extends from the Grantville to the north, Phillip Island and Inverloch to the south. • BCH has strong partnerships with Monash Health, Alfred Health, Peninsula Health and is a member of the Gippsland Health Alliance.
<p>Supply chain</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Share Victoria (HSV) (previously known as Health Purchasing Victoria) is an independent statutory authority under subsection 129(1) of the Health Services Act 1988 (Vic) established in 2001 to improve collective purchasing power of Victorian public health services and hospitals. As a legislated entity, HSV has the authority to establish contracts on behalf of all Victorian public health services and Bass Coast Health is mandated to purchase through the contracts established by HSV.

- HSV works in partnership with public health services to understand their requirements, facilitate large-scale collective tenders and manage common-use contracts on behalf of the state.
- BCH, through legislation, is mandated to purchase the goods and services it needs from the suppliers who are party to HSV collective agreements. As such, it is recognised that HSV has a significant role in health service supply chains.
- HSV has over 1000 contracted suppliers which are covered by for more than 70 collective agreements with a spend value of over \$1.4 billion p.a.
- HSV contracts cover a broad range of services, equipment and supplies across a number of categories including ventilators, beds, mattresses, patient trolleys, treatment chairs, hypodermic needles and syringes, gloves, pharmaceutical products, IV fluids, agency labour, catering supplies, laundry and linen services, non-emergency patient transport and many other supply categories.

Reporting Criterion 3: describe risks of modern slavery practices in operations & supply chains

- BCH, as a public health service, is committed to ensuring it does not cause or contribute to modern slavery practices. We recognize, however, that our global supply chains, especially in high-risk geographical areas, may expose us to potential modern slavery risks.
- HSV has continued to assess general modern slavery risks within health service supply chains, utilizing academic research and international as well as domestic reports. Through this analysis, we understand that there is a wide array of products and services sourced by HSV with associated geographic, industrial, and regulatory complexities. However, HSV do undertake modern slavery risk assessments for all HSV contracted suppliers and while it is not possible to assess all supply chain inputs, the modern slavery risks are minimized through HSV contracted sourcing undertaken by BCH.
- BCH has made progress in assessing its' supply chain for modern slavery risk, using HSV's Modern Slavery Risk Assessment Template to evaluate the risk profiles of our suppliers. This step marks our commitment to better understand and mitigate modern slavery risks within our operations and supply chains.

Reporting Criterion 4: describe the actions taken to assess and address risks of modern slavery

Policy

- BCH has developed a Modern Slavery Policy which has been approved by Executive Committee and is effective as of February 2023.

Due Diligence

- A modern slavery assessment section has been incorporated in to BCH Invitation to Supply documents (RFQ's, Tenders, RFP's) as a weighted assessment criterion.
- This questionnaire will be used for all relevant tender categories and suppliers.

Labour Hire License Checks

BCH ensures any new contractual arrangements established with Recruitment Agencies who provide workers on a labour hire basis are subject to a check ensuring they have obtained a Victorian Government Labour Hire License which confirms compliance with relevant IR legislation and award conditions.

Contracts

- A modern slavery clause (provided below) has been incorporated in to BCH's Commercial agreement templates.
 - *The Contractor must take reasonable steps to identify, assess and address risks of Modern Slavery practices in the operations and supply chains used in the provision of the Services.*
 - *If at any time the Contractor becomes aware of Modern Slavery practices in the operations and supply chains used in the performance of the Agreement, the Contractor must as soon as reasonably practicable, take appropriate action to remove these practices from the operations and supply chains.*
 - *If requested by the Health Service, with at least twenty 20 Business Days' notice, the Contractor must respond to any reasonable requests for information (including any supplier survey) provided by the Health Service relating to its compliance under this clause.*
 - *Where either the Contractor or the Health Service has identified significant or persistent Modern Slavery risks, or alleged Modern Slavery practice(s), in the operations and supply chains used in the performance of the Agreement and the Health Service has made reasonable efforts to engage the Contractor to take action to mitigate the risks or to remove the practice(s) and the Contractor fails to take action to mitigate those risks or remove those practice(s) the Health Service reserves the right to terminate this Agreement in accordance with clause (clause number)*

Risk Assessment

2024-25 Action

Risk Assessment Methodology

- HSV issued a risk assessment questionnaire template to obtain information from a sample group of suppliers regarding their supply chain and modern slavery mitigation practices.
- The Risk Assessment Questionnaire consists of the multiple questions covering the following:
 - Company Details
 - Modern Slavery Policy
 - Modern Slavery Due Diligence
 - Modern Slavery Training
 - Modern Slavery Remedy
- The responses to the questionnaire are scored. The scores for these questions are designed to attract low score for responses conducive to mitigating modern slavery risks and a high score for responses that indicate that suppliers are yet to plan and undertake any actions to mitigate the said risks.
- A low score means low risk and a high score means high risk.
 - Low Risk = No action required
 - Medium Risk = Monitor commitment to improve where stated
 - High Risk = Collaborate with supplier to develop and implement modern slavery risk mitigation plan

- The risk assessment questionnaire was issued to 21 BCH non-HSV suppliers.
- Out of the 21 suppliers, 15 suppliers responded providing BCH with a 56% response rate.
- 11 suppliers who responded received a score in the medium or low risk categories. No further follow up actions required for these suppliers.
- 4 suppliers were deemed to be in the high-risk category. They have plans to address these gaps within next 2 years. Tailored plans will be introduced to work with these suppliers to mitigate risks and close gaps in their supply chain.

- **Collaborate on Comprehensive Training and Awareness Programs:**

During individual procurement activities BCH will work key stakeholder departments such as emphasising practical steps to identify and mitigate modern slavery risks within the procurement process.

These actions aim to deepen engagement, expand risk visibility, and strengthen ethical practices in BCH's procurement framework and the supply chain and practices of our contracted partners.

Reporting Criterion 5: describe how the reporting entity assesses effectiveness of actions

- BCH continues to prioritise the assessment of modern slavery risk within our supply chain, building on the commitment made in FY 2024-25 to introduce robust risk assessment mechanism.
- As a result of the actions undertaken in 2022-23 and 2023-24, BCH has gained a deeper understanding of modern slavery risk profile of BCH suppliers. These assessments have indicated a generally low- medium risk profile across this supplier group, providing a foundation for future monitoring.
- The introduction of our Modern Slavery Policy, the inclusion of modern slavery terms in tender documents and contracts, are key actions that demonstrate BCH's commitment to mitigating modern slavery risks. These initiatives maintain a clear, focused approach across all areas, reflecting our progress and continued dedication to addressing modern slavery within our supply chain.

Reporting Criterion 6: describe the process of consultation with related entities

Bass Coast Health does not own or control any other entities.

Reporting Criterion 7: provide any other relevant information

Closing statement

Bass Coast Health is confident that the actions taken is building a stronger foundation necessary for an effective modern slavery framework. We recognise there is more work ahead, and BCH is committed to continuously enhancing our approach, collaborating with our stakeholders and contributing to the global effort to eradicate modern slavery.

Approval

This statement was approved by the Board of Bass Coast Health in their capacity as principal governing body of Bass Coast Health on 27th November 2025.

This statement is signed by Professor Simone Alexander, Interim Chief Executive Officer of Bass Coast Health.

Signed:



Professor Simone Alexander, Interim Chief Executive Officer